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Course

Center Overview Report

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<b>13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 Words)</b>  This Behavioral Center of Excellence in Breast Cancer contains three separate, but related research projects focused on breast cancer patients' quality of life and functional status. There is also a Biostatistic's Core Facility supporting all three studies. The three projects are: <u>Project 1</u> ) Menstrual Cycle Maintenance and Quality of Life Following Treatment for Breast Cancer: A Prospective Study. This is a study of women aged 45 years and younger diagnosed with a first breast cancer. <u>Project 2</u> ) Investigating Mechanisms to Explain Age Associated Differences in Quality of Life Among Breast Cancer Patients. This study examines psychosocial and clinical factors associated with patient's (aged 18-80+ years) coping and quality of life during the first 18 months post-diagnosis. <u>Project 3</u> ) Research on Optimal Recovery Practices in Breast Cancer (RESTORE). This is a randomized exercise intervention trial with a lymphedema prevention program.  Project 1 is a continuation of a study that was initiated in January of 1998. Projects 1 and 2 are new protocols, which will begin patient recruitment in the fall of 2002. All three studies have the potential to greatly improve the functional status and life quality of breast cancer patients during treatment and beyond.				
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## **OVERVIEW OF CENTER ACTIVITIES**

### **I. Progress of the Center-Specific Projects and Biostatistic's Core Facility**

Summaries of the activities/progress of the 3 projects and the Biostatistic's Core Facility are included in the annual reports for each specific project and Core. (Please see attached progress reports.)

### **II. Pre- and Post-Doctoral Fellows**

Permission was granted in late February of 2002 to begin recruitment for the 2 pre-doctoral and the 2 post-doctoral positions funded as part of the Center grant. At that point, it was too late in the academic year to place ads for pre-doctoral and post-doctoral student recruitment, as most prospective students would have already made commitments for other fellowships or post-doctoral positions by the late spring. For this reason, we did not place any journal or newsletter ads regarding these positions, but instead circulated our fellowship announcements on quality of life, psychology, sociology, and public health web list serves. We only had two responses to our post-doctoral ads, neither of whom were suitable for the position. No inquiries were received from students seeking pre-doctoral positions. Due to this poor response, we made the decision to delay recruitment for these positions until the fall of 2002.

Pre-Doctoral and Post-Doctoral advertisements have been circulated on public health association, and quality of life investigators' list serves during the fall of 2002. Journal ads for these positions will also be displayed in the following journals in December of 2002: American Journal of Public Health, Employment Bulletin of the American Sociological Association, and The Observer, published by the American Psychological Association. These positions will also be advertised, on site, at the International Society of Quality of Life (ISOQOL) meeting in Orlando, Florida on October 30-November 2, 2002. These recruiting strategies should enable us to identify qualified candidates for these training positions, so that they can be filled in the near future.

### **III. Approval For a 5<sup>th</sup> Year of Funding**

A budget request was submitted by Dr. Naughton (Center Director), and the Principal Investigators of the specific projects and Core, in August of 2002 for a 5<sup>th</sup> year of funding. This funding was requested due to delays in DOD IRB approval for the three projects. This request was approved and additional funds for a 5<sup>th</sup> year of the Center were awarded. This has resulted in a new total funding period of: October 1, 2001 - June 30, 2006.